

8

## The Importance of Being Irish

The Gathering, an Irish oral history research project administered by the Irish Studies Program at The University of Montana and funded by the Irish government, recently launched a new initiative, "The Importance of Being Irish."

"What we ask is that people pick up the pen and commit to paper their thoughts, feelings, experience and sense of the spirit and soul of Ireland and the Irish," says Traolach O'Riordain, director of the Irish Studies program.

To participate, those with Irish connections or ancestry are invited to submit:

- A brief personal and family history and genealogy going back to Ireland; and
- An account of an event, tradition or experience that's uniquely Irish and continues to evoke your history. It might include anecdotes, traditions, beliefs, superstitions, religious practices, songs, stories, or poems.

Multiple submissions are welcome from all age groups. Submissions should be less than 5,000 words and saved as a Word document.

Email submissions to [submissions@mtirishgathering.org](mailto:submissions@mtirishgathering.org), or mail to Irish Studies, LA 125, The University of Montana, 32 Campus Dr., Missoula, MT 59812. Deadline is May 31.

A selection of the stories, songs and poems will be published in a book and electronic format.

For details, call 406-239-0990 or visit [mtirishgathering.org](http://mtirishgathering.org).

## ARTS & HUMANITIES

# Film Clips: News from the Montana Film Office

## Video pioneers: Montana filmmakers get viral

Pioneering into uncharted territory is a Montana tradition. Now, a group of Montana filmmakers are taking that adventurous spirit to a whole new platform: YouTube.

With support provided by the Big Sky Film Grant program, the producers of Montana's newest channels, Nick Davis and Mick Faherty ("Epic Montana"), Doug Hawes-Davis and Dru Carr ("Montana Experience"), and Tonya Easby ("Reel-West Montana"), are looking for the best epic, authentic, cinematic, and most importantly – Montana – stories to showcase on the fastest growing digital platform today.

Each of the YouTube channels offers a different glimpse into Montana. From artist profiles to historical shorts and portraits of regular Montanans, "The Montana Experience" provides the ultimate access to Montana's most intimate stories; "Epic Montana" brings the fresh powder and open ranges of Montana to life through extreme sports shorts and outdoor adventures; and "Reel-West Montana" serves as the access point for all things Montana film by providing behind-the-scenes footage and exclusive trailers from Montana-made productions.

Each channel has already seen marked success. Shorts from "The Montana Experience" have been accepted to film festivals across

the country. "Epic Montana" hosted the world-premiere of "Winter Light," a poetic journey deep into Montana's winter climes, by Max Lowe (son of the son of the late mountaineer Alex Lowe and adopted son of Conrad Anker). "Reel-West" hosted the world premiere of Bozeman-based Helio Collective's viral music video, "Spirit Canoe."

Content is continuously hosted and added to the channels, with the producers premiering one brand-new video each week. All content can be accessed through the individual YouTube channels or through any of the Montana Film Office social media sites.

## Film Office assesses impacts of moving pictures

The Montana Film Office has commissioned an economic impact study to assess the impact of moving image production in Montana since 2006. When combined, the benefits of production expenditures and visitation influenced by moving pictures exceeds \$103 million; multiplied within the Montana



Montana production company Helio Collective saw its music video "Spirit Canoe" go viral after its online premiere this past March. Helio partnered with the Montana Film Office and Reel-West Montana to distribute behind-the-scenes footage and exclusive trailers for the premiere.

economy the economic impact on local communities reaches \$158 million and benefits an estimated 1,050 Montana jobs.

The 47 productions taking advantage of Montana's film tax credits produced \$13.5 million in economic benefit on the state's \$536,009 investment. Simply put, this means that every \$1 Montana spends in marketing, the film industry puts \$89 dollars back into local communities and Montanans' pockets.

A full report will be available later this year. Any questions about the economic impact study may be directed to the film office through [montanafilm@mt.gov](mailto:montanafilm@mt.gov) or 406-841-2879

# Great Falls library hosts "Civil War 150"

The Great Falls Public Library is one of only 50 libraries and National Park historic sites around the country selected to host "Civil War 150: Exploring the War and Its Meaning through the Words of Those Who Lived It."

The national touring panel exhibition, which commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, will be on display May 26-June 16 at the library. As a host to this unique historical exhibit, the library will offer an array of special event and programs May 8-June 7, all of which are free and open to the public.

The library is also seeking descendants and relatives of Civil War veterans to share personal stories from the war.

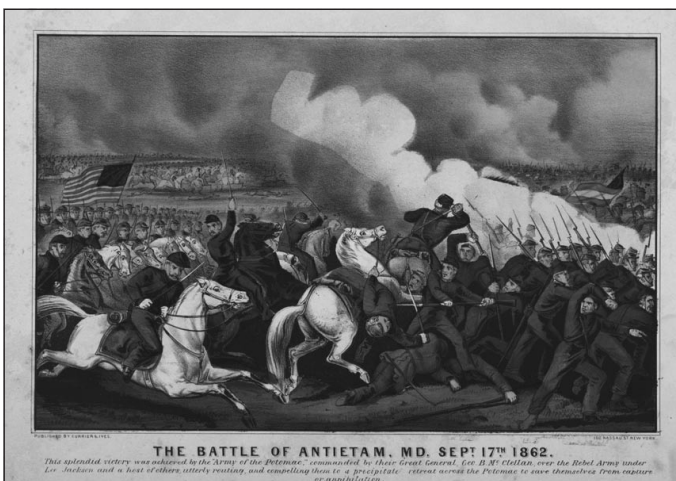
The exhibit is sponsored by Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in partnership with The Library of America, and is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Civil War was one of most transformative periods in U.S. history – and the bloodiest conflict in U.S. history. Experience

the battle through the eyes of major political figures, soldiers, families and freedmen. By virtue of letters, personal accounts, and images, learn how people grappled with the end of slavery, the nature of democracy and citizenship, the human toll of civil war, and the role of a president in wartime.

"Civil War 150" is divided into five panels: The Nation Divides, 1861: The Union is Dissolved, This Cruel War, 1863: Turning Points, and The Price of Victory (1864–1865).

Special presentations include a lecture series, 7 p.m. May 8-June 19; and an opening reception at 6 p.m. May 29 that includes a panel discussion, "Issues of the Civil War and Its Relevance to the Present." The First United States Volunteer Infantry Reenactors present the "Return of the Galvanized Yankees



Battle of Antietam from the national "Civil War 150" exhibit.

Encampment," 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 31; and Jim Miller and Ticia Toby offer "Bonnetts and Battlefields: An Interactive Experience," 10 a.m.-4 p.m. June 7.

For more details, contact Jude Smith at 406-453-0349 or [jusmith@greatfallslibrary.org](mailto:jusmith@greatfallslibrary.org).

## MONTANA POET LAUREATE

### Pitch and Swing

By Tami Haaland

Tonight we play the undefeated team, mostly little guys. Base hitters and one slamaroo kid. First inning one of our players hits a home run and catches two flies. The whole team is hot, then confused in the middle when a new pitcher tricks the batters with his changeup.

The last few plays are slow motion. We're up by one but a good hit can alter everything. I can't help but think what it feels like on the other team, to be twelve years old at bat, two out already, two strikes and the next pitch coming in. Poor kid, he'll feel like it was his fault. And then he thwacks it, nice line drive to center field. He smiles, and our team has to start over, more risk because the kid on second could make it in. Next kid, two strikes, and I feel sorry again.



Tami Haaland

Coach says that's the best thing about baseball. You lose and you win. The batter digs his foot into powder, ready to spring. The umpire and catcher become concentric, the infield players crouch toward the plate. It depends, now, on the pitch. It depends on the swing, and now the pitcher nods to the catcher, digs his toe in.

– From *When We Wake in the Night*